



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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REMINDER: News conference to announce changes in Juvenile Justice Commission

For immediate release

JULIAN, W.Va. – Supreme Court Chief Justice Margaret L. Workman will hold a news conference at 11:30 a.m. TOMORROW, Tuesday, Dec. 8, in the lobby of the Donald R. Kuhn Juvenile Center, 1 Lory Place, Julian, Boone County.

The purpose of the news conference is to announce changes in the makeup of the Supreme Court's Juvenile Justice Commission, which Chief Justice Workman established in 2011. A commission meeting will follow.

The Commission was established in large part because of concern with events at the West Virginia Industrial Home for Youth in Salem, and process issues within the state's juvenile justice system. As a result, the system for housing juveniles in West Virginia has been re-evaluated, redesigned and is monitored. Paralleling that work, Justice Robin Jean Davis has worked with judicial officers around the state on the Judicial Initiative on Truancy.

Chief Justice Workman created the Commission based on the belief that more effective rehabilitation services for juveniles makes sense not only from a humanitarian perspective, but also from a cost savings and public safety perspective. The Supreme Court made a commitment in 2011 to work with the other branches of government to provide juveniles the best possible treatment and rehabilitation in a safe environment, and it continues to live up to that commitment.

The Governor's Intergovernmental Taskforce on Juvenile Justice and Pew Charitable Trusts, which initiated 2015 juvenile justice reform legislation, built upon work begun by the Court's Commission. The Governor used the model of the Court Commission to bring together leaders from the three branches of government and other professionals. A Juvenile Justice Reform Commission is now codified with specific goals and membership.

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